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Grizzly harriers ready for opener against Weber

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GRIZZLY HARRIERS READY
FOR OPENER AGAINST WEBER

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MISSOULA--

Grizzly cross country coach Harley Lewis was pleased with the results of the time trials which determined the seven runners that will compete in Ogden Saturday in the season's opener against Weber State.

The Montana coach said, "Anytime your^{first} nine men finish a three-mile course in less than 16 minutes this early in the season, your in pretty good shape."

Montana begins its six meet schedule Saturday in preparation for the Big Sky finals in Moscow on Nov. 8.

Wade Jacobsen, 1968 Big Sky undefeated champion for Simms, ran the course in 15:27 to pace the UM squad. Close behind Jacobsen, also receiving a 15:27 clocking, was Ray Velez. Velez also finished second to Jacobsen in the Big Sky meet last fall.

Lewis said both Jacobsen and Velez ran smoothly but they aren't quite in shape yet.

Ray Ballew finished third, but Lewis believes he is the most improved runner on the team. Ballew trimmed off about 30 pounds this summer and seems to run much easier and faster, the UM coach commented. The Sunburst harrier ran the course in 15:36.

Bob Malkemes, George Cook, Dick Miller and Tim O'Hare finished the course in 15:54 to round out the top seven that will compete in Saturday's opener.

Boyd Collins, a Billings freshman, finished eight under the 16 minute barrier with a time of 15:56. Last year's third runner, Howie Johnson of Anaconda, finished ninth, but missed practice last week because of the flu.

Lewis said, "If the kids continue to improve like they have we should have a chance to upset Idaho State in the Big Sky meet."

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